

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 RSR-01 RSC-01 /036 W

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R 231113Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 375

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5920

E.O. 11652: ADS 12/31/73

TAGS: OVIP (RUSH, KENNETH)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 141233

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES PROPOSED OCTOBER VISIT BY DEPUTY SECRETARY AND HAS SENT INITIAL NOTE TO MY EXTAFF GIVING TENTATIVE DATES.

2. ONCE DATES CONFIRMED, WE PLAN DISCUSS PROGRAM FURTHER WITH MEA. SUBJECT DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE, WE WOULD EXPECT REQUEST CALLS ON GENERAL GOWON AND COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARIKPO, ON LAGOS STATE GOVERNOR JOHNSON, AND ON ONE OR TWO COMMISSIONERS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES IN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. DEPENDING ON ARRIVAL TIME, WE WOULD PROPOSE MODEST RECEPTION ONE EVENING AND SMALL DINNER WITH SELECTED NIGERIANS ON SECOND EVENING, WHILE MEA (ARIKPO OR PERMSEC IYALLA) MAY WANT TO HOST LUNCH.

3. WISH OFFER CAUTIONARY NOTE THAT IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE GET FMG TO FOCUS ON PLANNING FOR VISIT UNTIL OCTOBER GIVEN FACT TOP OFFICIALS IN MEA AND ELSEWHERE WILL BE PREOCCUPIED DURING NEXT FEW MONTHS WITH GOWON TRIPS TO OTTAWA, UN, AND PERHAPS MOSCOW. BOTH TONE AND CONTENT OF DISCUSSIONS DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT HERE LIKELY BE GOVERNED IN LARGE PART BY GOWON'S EXPERIENCES ON HIS TRAVELS, PARTICULARLY TRIP TO NEW YORK FIRST WEEK IN OCTOBER TO PRESENT OAU VIEWS TO UNGA. WE WILL OF COURSE
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MAKE EVERY EFFORT PIN DOWN FMG ON PROGRAM AS SOON AS

FIRM DATES AVAILABLE, BUT PROSPECTS FOR RAPID DECISIONS
ON NIGERIAN SIDE NOT LIKELY BE VERY BRIGHT.

4. AMBASSADOR INVITES DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH AND
ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM STAY AT RESIDENCE. IN VIEW
TIGHT HOTEL SITUATION, EMBASSY MAKING TENTATIVE
RESERVATIONS AT LOCAL HOTELS FOR BALANCE OF PARTY PLUS
AIRCREW.

5. AMBASSADOR EJCEPTS WITH PLEASURE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S
OFFER OF TRANSPORTATION TO MONROVIA ON HIS PLANE.

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